

SUB-OBDEK 1.
XENARTHKA.

Fam. 1
 Myrmecophagidae.—The family Myrmecophagidae contains three genera, all South American in range. These genera *Myrmecopliaga*, *Tamandua*, and *Cydoturus*, agree in their outward form. They are all without teeth, and have long snouts and long protrusible tongues. The fur is thick, and they have powerful claws wherewith to break down the strong ant-hills upon whose inhabitants they feed. *Tamandua* and *Cydoturus* are arboreal, *Myrmecopliaga* is terrestrial in habit.



FIG. 91.—Great Anteater. *Myrmecopliaga jubata*. × 1½.

The claws of the arboreal forms are useful to destroy the bark, and thus bring to light insects which lurk in such situations.

The genus *Myrmecopliaga* contains but one species, the Great Anteater, *Myrmecopliaga jubata*. It is a large and handsome animal, with long, shaggy, greyish-black hair and a broad white stripe across the shoulder. The coloration is similar in the two sexes. Including the long and bushy tail it reaches a

length of over
7 feet. It is on account of its
long tongue and greatly
developed
salivary glands that this
and the allied genera were
originally
placed with *Manis*. It is the
submaxillary glands which
are so
enormous; they extend
back over the chest, and
open by three
distinct ducts, of which two
unite just before the
external orifice.